



Enterprise Green Communities

Green Communities is the first national green building program focused entirely on affordable housing, and is delivering significant health, economic and environmental benefits to low-income families and communities.

What we do. Enterprise provides financing, funding and expertise to enable developers to build and rehabilitate homes that are smartly located, healthier, water conserving, more energy efficient and better for the environment – without compromising affordability.

- **Green Communities Criteria**—Enterprise developed the first national green building standard for affordable housing. The Criteria are designed to maximize health, economic and environmental benefits for low-income residents and are applicable to all housing and construction types.
- **Resources**—Enterprise provides grants, loans, and equity to assist developers to provide green affordable housing that meets the Green Communities Criteria. In addition, Enterprise supports post-construction training for building owners, property managers and residents.
- **Carbon Offset Fund**—Enterprise's Green Communities Offset Fund raises charitable contributions to support the development and rehabilitation of green affordable housing that lower carbon dioxide emissions. Contributions to the fund are used to purchase and retire carbon emission reductions (offsets) from participating affordable housing developers. Enterprise verifies and monitors emissions reductions over a 10-year period.
- **Assistance to states and localities**—Enterprise offers technical assistance and training to states and localities to ensure their housing policies are smart and sustainable.
- **Evaluation**—To ensure intended benefits are delivered, Enterprise tracks the costs and benefits of Green Communities developments and completes on-site assessments to measure building performance.

Results. Since its inception in fall 2004, Enterprise is helping communities around the country realize the benefits of green affordable housing. Through Green Communities, Enterprise has accomplished the following:

- Supported the development of over 14,500 green affordable homes
- Trained more than 4,000 housing professionals in green affordable housing development
- 20 cities and states have adopted greener housing standards and policies
- Green Communities developments on average result in a 20% reduction in energy and water consumption and reduce carbon emissions by 2 tons per unit a year
- The Green Communities Criteria can be achieved cost effectively for approximately \$6 per square foot above conventional total development costs.

Why this is Important.

- **Reduces energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.** Residential housing accounts for 22% of the nation's energy use and causes over 20% of our greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Reduces energy costs for low- and moderate-income families.** Low and moderate income families tend to live in older, less energy-efficient housing, so they are disproportionately burdened by rising energy costs.
- **Increases the health of low income families.** Healthier living environments are proven to lower asthma triggers in adults and children and reduce emergency trips to medical care facilities.